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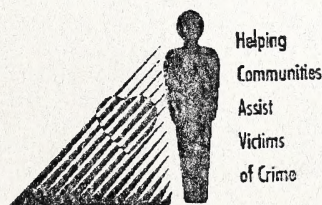
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**VICTIMS' PROGRAMS
ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL REPORT

1994-95



Alberta
JUSTICE



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ALBERTA
MINISTER OF JUSTICE

320 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97th Avenue N.W., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6
Telephone 403/427-2339 Fax 403/422-6621

September 27, 1995

Honourable Stanley Schumacher
Office of the Speaker
325 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Schumacher:

I have the honour to submit the Victims' Programs Assistance Committee Annual Report for the year ending March 31, 1995.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brian Evans".

Brian Evans, Q.C.
Minister of Justice
and Attorney General
MLA Banff-Cochrane

Att.

Office of the
Deputy Minister of Justice
and Deputy Attorney General

9833 - 109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T5K 2E8

Telephone 403/427-5032

September 21, 1995

Honourable Brian Evans, Q.C.
Minister of Justice
and Attorney General
320 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Evans:

I have the honour to submit the Victims' Programs Assistance Committee Annual Report for the year ending March 31, 1995.

Yours truly,



Neil McCrank, Q.C.
Deputy Minister of Justice
and Deputy Attorney General

Att.

Office of the
Deputy Minister of Justice
and Deputy Attorney General

Room 100-200
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T5K 2K6

Telephone 427-2722

September 21, 1992

Honourable Brian Evans, Q.C.
Minister of Justice
and Attorney General
310 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2K6

Dear Mr. Evans:

I have the honour to submit the Victim Program Assistance Committee Annual
Report for the year ending March 31, 1992.

Yours truly,



Neil McCool, Q.C.
Deputy Minister of Justice
and Deputy Attorney General

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VICTIMS' PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE ACT

The *Victims' Programs Assistance Act*, proclaimed January 16, 1991, established the Victims' Programs Assistance Fund and provided for the appointment of a Victims' Programs Assistance Committee.

I. VICTIMS' PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

The Victims' Programs Assistance Committee is appointed by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. The Committee makes recommendations on grant applications and programs and services that may benefit victims of crime.

In 1994, the Committee was reduced to four members with two members representing the community at-large, one member representing police and one member representing government. All Committee members have been re-appointed for a one year term expiring April 20, 1996. Members of the Committee are as follows:

Mr. Richard Smedstad (Chairman) - member at-large, Sherwood Park;

Mrs. Marguerite Duckworth - member at-large, Calgary;

Mr. Peter Teasdale (Alberta Justice) - representing government;

Sgt. Loran Thiemann - representing police.

Committee Staff Support

The Executive Secretary to the Committee is responsible for administrative support and is also Manager, Victims' Programs, Alberta Justice. In this capacity, the Manager works with the Committee, community groups, police and other government departments to develop and implement initiatives designed to benefit victims of crime.

Committee Meetings

The Committee met July 5 and 6, 1994 and November 28 and 29, 1994. Thirty-seven grant applications were evaluated by the Committee and thirty-one were approved by the Minister for grants.

II. VICTIMS' PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE FUND

Section 2 of the *Act* established the Victims' Programs Assistance Fund into which is deposited money collected from fine surcharges imposed by the courts in Alberta. Under Section 717.9 of the *Criminal Code*, where an offender is convicted or discharged under this *Act*, the *Food and Drugs Act* or the *Narcotic Control Act*, the court imposing sentence on or discharging the offender shall, in addition to any other punishment imposed on the offender, order the offender to pay a fine surcharge in an amount not exceeding 15 percent of any fine or up to \$35 on non-fine dispositions. Also, deposited into the Fund are federal contributions for the purpose of assisting victims, money received from persons or organizations and any interest accrued on Fund monies.

Section 6 of the *Act* provides for payments out of the Fund. This includes grants approved by the Minister of Justice, costs incurred by the Committee or to persons whose services are engaged by the Minister of Justice and salaries, benefits and other expenditures related to the services of administrators to carry out work required by the Committee.

(Included are the salary and benefits of the Executive Secretary, program expenses, remuneration and travel expenses of staff and Committee members and related operating expenses.)

For further information, please see financial statement (Appendix "A").

III. GRANTS

Grant application deadlines were April 1 and October 1, 1994. Thirty-seven applications were evaluated by the Committee and thirty-one grants totalling \$894,568 were approved by the Minister of Justice. Successful grant applicants enter into a funding agreement that outlines specific terms and conditions that must be met.

BonnyGrand Victim Assistance Society

\$29,000

The grant funds costs associated with a community-directed victim assistance program operating out of the RCMP detachment and serving Bonnyville, Grand Centre, Cold Lake, Long Lake Cree Nation, and Cold Lake First Nation. Services provided include immediate intervention, practical

assistance, information about criminal justice proceedings and available services, referrals and courtroom education and support. Other services provided are next of kin notification, bereavement support, domestic violence follow-up, exhibit return, and suicide prevention.

Breton Detachment Victim Services Society

\$20,000

A grant was provided for a community-directed police-based program to continue to provide assistance, support, information, referrals and court support to victims of crime and tragedy in the Breton RCMP Detachment area.

Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse

\$152,000

Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse was approved for a grant to produce a video, "You're Not Alone" and comic book for children who may be required to testify in court, and to produce a video and manual for service providers assisting children who may be required to testify in court. Copies of this material will be distributed to police, Crown prosecutors and victim assistance programs in the province.

Central Alberta Sexual Assault Centre

\$6,656

The grant provides funding for crisis intervention and support services for victims of sexual assault. Support services provided include court preparation as well as accompaniment to court, to medical facilities and to police.

Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation

\$15,000

The grant provides funding for the Crossroads Outreach program to provide immediate intervention, assistance, information, referral and courtroom education and support to children and young adults involved in prostitution.

Edmonton John Howard Society - Victim Assistance Program \$30,000

The grant provides funding for the continued operation of a court support program for victims of crime in Edmonton. Working with Edmonton Police Service, Crown prosecutors, other government and community agencies, the program offers orientation, accompaniment and support to victims during their involvement in criminal justice proceedings.

High River & District Victim Services Association \$20,000

The grant provides funds for the continued operation of a community-directed victim services program that provides immediate assistance, support, information and referrals to victims of crime within the High River RCMP Detachment area and to explore expansion of services to the areas of Okotoks and Turner Valley.

Lac La Biche Victim Services Unit \$30,000

The grant provides funds to establish a community-directed victim services program that provides assistance to victims of crime in the Lac La Biche RCMP Detachment area.

Mayerthorpe Area RCMP Victims' Services Unit Society \$25,000

The grant provides funds to establish a community-directed victim services program operating out of the Mayerthorpe RCMP Detachment. Services provided to victims of crime include assistance, information, referrals and support.

Slave Lake Victim Services Society \$20,000

The grant provides funds to continue the operation of a community-directed victim services program which provides assistance, information, referrals and courtroom education and support to victims of crime in the Slave Lake RCMP Detachment area.

Stony Plain & District Victim Services Society

\$30,000

The grant provides funds to continue the operation of a community-directed victim services program that operates out of the RCMP detachment and provides assistance to victims of crime and tragedy in Stony Plain and Spruce Grove Detachment areas. Services provided include crisis intervention and follow-up, referrals, case information, courtroom education and support and home or business security inspections.

Westlock Community Victim Services Association

\$15,000

The grant provides funding for costs associated with the continued operation of a community-directed RCMP-based victim services program. Services provided to assist victims of crime in the Westlock area include intervention, follow-up support, referrals and courtroom education and accompaniment.

Airdrie & District Victim Assistance Society

\$27,550

Funding has been provided for start-up costs associated with establishing a community-directed victim assistance program that operates out of the RCMP Detachment and provides services to victims of crime in the Airdrie area.

Bow Valley Victim Services Association

\$38,210

A grant has been provided to establish a community-directed victim services program operating out of the Banff RCMP Detachment and providing services to victims of crime in Banff, Canmore, Lake Louise, Exshaw and Kananaskis. Services provided include community education, support, information and referrals.

Coaldale Victims' Assistance Services \$6,000

A grant provides funding for operating costs associated with a volunteer victim assistance program. The program operates out of the Coaldale Police facility and provides assistance, support, referrals and information about criminal justice proceedings to victims of crime in the Coaldale area.

Cochrane Victim/Witness Assistance Society \$33,000

Funding is provided for costs associated with a community-directed victim assistance program operating out of the Cochrane RCMP Detachment. Services provided include assistance, support, information and referrals to victims of crime and also community education and awareness programs.

Drumheller & District Victim Services Association \$30,000

A grant was provided to establish a community-directed victim services program that would operate out of the RCMP Detachment and provide assistance, information, referrals and courtroom education and support to victims of crime in the City of Drumheller.

Edmonton Police Service \$10,000

The grant provides funding for training victim service volunteers and civilian staff and for volunteer appreciation.

Edson & District Victim Services Society \$30,000

A grant was provided to establish a community-directed victim services program that would operate out of the RCMP Detachment and provide assistance, information, referrals and courtroom education and support to victims of crime in the Edson area.

Fairview Victim Assistance Association \$8,000

The grant provides funding for the continued operation of a community-directed victim services program operating out of the RCMP Detachment and providing services to victims of crime in the Fairview area. Services provided include intervention and assistance, information and support and courtroom education and accompaniment.

Fort McMurray Victim Services Society \$30,000

The grant provides funding for costs associated with operating a community-directed RCMP-based victim services program that provides assistance, information, referrals and courtroom education and support to victims of crime in Fort McMurray, Fort Chipewyan, Fort MacKay, Janvier and Gregoire Lake Estates.

Grande Prairie RCMP Victims' Assistance Program Association \$25,200

The grant provides funding for costs associated with victim assistance volunteer management, training and motivation and for services to victims of crime which include assistance, information, referrals and courtroom education and support.

Lacombe Victim Services Association \$26,900

The grant provides funds for operating costs associated with a community-directed victim services program that operates out of the Lacombe Police Service facility. Services provided to victims of crime include assistance, information, referrals and courtroom education and support.

Leduc & District Victim Assistance Society \$20,000

The grant provides funds for operating costs associated with a community-directed victim assistance program that operates out of the Leduc RCMP Detachment. Services provided to victims of crime include assistance, information, referrals and courtroom education and support.

Lethbridge Police Service, Victim Services Unit \$22,500

This grant provides funds for operating costs associated with maintaining a victim services unit and provides support for training and recognition for volunteers who provide services to victims of crime in the City of Lethbridge. The program operates out of the Lethbridge Police Service facility and services provided to victims of crime include assistance, information, referrals and courtroom education and support.

Medicine Hat Police Service \$30,000

The grant provides funds for operating costs associated with maintaining a victim services unit with Medicine Hat Police Service and provides support for training and appreciation of volunteers who provide services to victims of crime. Services provided include assistance, information, referrals and courtroom education and support.

Southern Alberta Victims' Assistance Program (SAVA) \$55,400

The grant provides funds for training of volunteers and volunteer branch coordinators and provides funds for operating costs associated with establishing and maintaining victim assistance programs in Crowsnest Pass, Claresholm, Brooks, Bow Island, Taber, Milk River and Lethbridge (rural). This program is community-directed and is administrated by a coordinator operating out of the Lethbridge RCMP Sub-Division. Services provided to victims of crime include assistance, information, referrals and courtroom education and support.

Tofield & Area Victim Services Association \$20,000

The grant provides funds for operating costs associated with maintaining a community-directed victim services program that operates out of the Tofield RCMP Detachment and provides services to victims of crime in Tofield and Viking. Services provided include assistance, information, referrals and courtroom education and support.

Wabasca, Desmarais, Sandy Lake Victims Support Society \$30,000

This grant provides funds for operating costs associated with maintaining a community-directed victim services program that operates out of the Desmarais RCMP Detachment. Services provided to victims of crime include assistance, information, referrals and courtroom education and support.

Calgary Legal Guidance/YWCA of Calgary \$50,000

A grant has been provided to design, implement and evaluate a court preparation program for victim and witnesses of domestic assault. The objectives of this program are to improve follow-through in police laid assault charges by preparing victims for court and to provide victims and witnesses with support and resources throughout the court process.

Providing Assistance, Counselling and Education (PACE), Grande Prairie \$9,152

The grant provides funds for operating costs associated with a program that provides crisis intervention, assistance, information, referrals, court preparation and follow-up support services for victims of sexual assault in Grande Prairie and area.

IV OTHER ACTIVITIES

A. Victim Impact Statement Program

Victims have the opportunity to play a more significant role in the sentencing process. This opportunity presents itself in the form of Bill C-89, passed by the House of Commons in May 1988. Included in the legislation is the Victim Impact Statement (VIS) which provides victims of crime with the opportunity to describe in writing the harm or loss suffered. The Statement can be instrumental to the courts when determining the sentence of an offender [CCC, s.735(1.1)].

In Alberta, the statement is prepared in accordance with the procedures established by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council of the province (Appendix "B"). A VIS form, brochure and guidelines have been developed. Brochures describing the program are available through police services, courts, community agencies and other appropriate locations. The VIS program was piloted in eight locations in Alberta (Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie, Leduc, Stony Plain and Sherwood Park) beginning June 1991, and has since expanded throughout the province.

Police services distribute the VIS forms and a descriptive program brochure which assists victims in completing the statement. Completed statements are returned to the police service, who retain the statement until a charge is laid. When a charge has been laid, the statement is filed with the court and may be considered by the judge at the time of sentencing. Where applicable, statements are forwarded to provincial and federal correctional authorities to be used in pre-release decisions.

Alberta's RCMP detachments and all municipal police services now provide victims of crime the opportunity to have input into sentencing. Victims choosing to participate in the program can describe in writing to the courts the effect a crime has had on their lives. April 1994 to March 1995, police services distributed 6,492 victim impact statement information packages and 889 victim impact statements were completed and returned to police services.

A video, *"What About Me?"*, was cooperatively produced by Edmonton Police Service, RCMP "K" Division and Alberta Justice. Using a dramatic setting, the video depicts the use of the Victim Impact Statement by victims and the court. Copies of the video have been distributed to judges, Crown prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, court services, correctional services and the National Parole Board. The video provides information about the program and increases awareness of victims of crime who may choose to participate in the program and those who are involved in the delivery of the program.

B. The How-To Manual for Victim Assistance Programs

Grande Prairie RCMP Victims' Assistance Association, through a grant received from the Victims' Programs Assistance Fund, designed a manual as a tool for boards, staff and volunteers interested in developing a victim assistance unit in their community.

The manual was endorsed by the Chairman of the Victims' Programs Assistance Committee, the Executive Director of Law Enforcement Division, Alberta Justice and the Assistant Commissioner, RCMP "K" Division.

Alberta Justice has published and distributed the manual to police services and interested groups and organizations in Alberta to be used as a guide to the development of community-directed, police-based victim assistance programs.

C. Child Witness Courtroom Preparation Project

In January 1988, Bill C-15 was introduced which legislated amendments to both the *Criminal Code* and *Canada Evidence Act*. It allows for the acceptance of unsworn testimony, uncorroborated evidence, the introduction of videotaped evidence and the use of procedures (such as screens and closed circuit television) which make it easier for a young child to testify in court. As a result, much younger children are being permitted to testify.

Many of these cases fail because the child witness is not prepared for the court process. They get confused. They break down under the intense pressure of cross examination and their testimony is not sufficient to produce a conviction.

In response to a Alberta Family and Social Services recommendation outlined in *Reshaping Child Welfare*, (Section II-7), Alberta Justice and Alberta Family and Social Services established a working committee to explore how services for children who are required to testify in court could be improved. A proposal submitted to the Working Committee outlined that victim assistance programs established in the province provide services that include courtroom orientation and support to victims of crime.

The Working Committee recommended utilizing victim assistance programs already established and recommended that training and resources be developed and provided to improve services to children required to testify. This initiative was supported by Alberta Family and Social Services, Alberta Justice, the Victims' Programs Assistance Committee and also by police services, Crown prosecutors and the Alberta Association of Police Based Victim Services.

Victim assistance program coordinators received training on Child Witness Court Preparation at the Alberta Justice Staff College in November 1994. Training was provided collaboratively by Alberta Justice, Alberta Family and Social Services, Edmonton Police Service, RCMP and the Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General approved a grant for the Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse to develop resources that would assist children who may be required to testify in court and would assist police, Crown prosecutors and victim assistance program staff who provide court orientation and support services. The first phase of the project is a video, *"You're Not Alone"* and a comic book designed for victimized children who are being called before the courts to give testimony. Both the video and the comic book are designed to give the child witness an overview of the court system, to see and hear about the experiences of other children, to learn relaxation techniques and feel a sense of confidence. The second phase is a court preparation facilitator's program. This package is a complete resource guide and includes a facilitator's manual and video.

The video, *"You're Not Alone"*, comic books, facilitator's manual and video will be distributed to police services, Crown prosecutors and all victim assistance programs in the province. It is expected that these resources will help children to better understand and cope with the experience of testifying in court and will also help those who provide children with support and assistance during their involvement in the criminal justice process.

D. The Advocate

A bi-annual newsletter is published by Alberta Justice and distributed to police, Crown prosecutors, Court Services, the judiciary and community victim service providers. The newsletter provides information about the allocation of grants and information about programs that have been established. As well, the newsletter provides a province-wide network for input, ideas and staff and volunteer recognition.

VICTIMS' PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND
BALANCE SHEET
as at March 31, 1995

ASSETS

Cash	\$1,627,068.92
Accounts Receivable (Schedule 1)	\$78,378.90
Total Assets	<u>\$1,705,447.82</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Accounts Payable (Schedule 2)	\$93,808.26
Fund Balance	\$1,611,639.56
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$1,705,447.82</u>

VICTIMS' PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND FUND BALANCE
as at March 31, 1995

REVENUES		
Fine Surcharges	\$509,208.07	
C.C.I.T.F. Interest	\$121,510.21	
Prior Year Expenditure Refunds	\$0.00	
Total Revenue		\$630,718.28
EXPENDITURES		
From General Revenue Fund:		
Salaries and Benefits	\$31,610.20	
Travel	\$867.68	
Rentals	\$1,760.46	
Material and Supplies	\$8,810.75	
Hosting	\$28.21	
Other Office Expenses	\$63.96	
<i>Total General Revenue Fund</i>	<i>\$43,141.26</i>	
From Victims' Programs Assistance Fund:		
Grants ^(Note #1)	\$846,544.00	
Salaries Permanent	\$0.00	
Wages	\$0.00	
Employer Contributions	\$0.00	
Travel (P.S)	\$1,551.17	
Freight & Postage	\$0.00	
Rentals	\$0.00	
Telephone & Comm.	\$0.00	
Contract Services	\$2,343.00	
Hosting & Working Sess.	\$0.00	
Materials & Supplies	\$0.00	
<i>Total Victims' Programs Assistance Fund</i>	<i>\$850,438.17</i>	
Total Expenditure		\$893,579.43
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure		(\$262,861.15)
Fund Balance April 1, 1994		\$1,874,500.71
Fund Balance March 31, 1995		\$1,611,639.56

**VICTIMS' PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND
SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Schedule 1 - Accounts Receivable		
Fine Surcharge - February 1995	\$45,909.47	
C.C.I.T.F. Interest	\$32,469.43	
Recoverable GST on Fund Expenditures	\$0.00	
Total Accounts Receivable		\$78,378.90
Schedule 2 - Accounts Payable		
Payable to General Revenue Fund:		
Salaries and Benefits	\$31,610.20	
Travel	\$867.68	
Rentals	\$1,760.46	
Material and Supplies	\$8,810.75	
Hosting	\$28.21	
Other Office Expenses	\$63.96	
<i>Total General Revenue Fund</i>		\$43,141.26
Grants		\$50,667.00
Total Accounts Payable		\$93,808.26

Note #1 In 1993-94, a grant of \$48,024 was approved for a project proposed by Calgary Legal Guidance and the YWCA contingent upon funding being obtained from another identified source. As this condition was not satisfied, this grant was not awarded.

APPROVED AND ORDERED,

Arden Fowler

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

O.C. 228/91

March 28, 1991

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

Upon the recommendation of the Honourable the Solicitor

General, the Lieutenant Governor in Council, pursuant to section

735(1.2) of the Criminal Code (Canada), designates the Victims'

Programs and Services Program under the Department of the Solicitor

General as having the authority to establish the form and procedures

respecting a statement referred to in section 735(1.1) of the

Criminal Code (Canada), effective April 1, 1991.

Don B. Leith

CHAIRMAN

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